

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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THE REV. HENRY JONES LEAVES FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA SEMINAR

During July and August at Trinity College (a Theological Seminary) in Singapore, Seminary Professors from all Southeast Asian countries will gather to consider "the Christian Faith Facing non-Christian Religions" and "The Christian Churches of Asia Facing Rural and Urban Environments." Dr. Hendrick Kraemer of Holland and Dr. Paul David Devanandon of India will be leaders in the study of the former subject, while Dr. Fidel Calang of the Philippines and the Rev. Henry Jones will guide the study of the latter subject. Mr. Jones is well-known in Japan for his work with the Committee on Occupational Evangelism of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. and Mrs. Jones left July 23 for the month long study sessions in Singapore, sponsored by the Nanking Theological Seminary Foundation.

REORGANIZATION OF WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Due to considerable difficulties in achieving satisfactory cooperative planning on the local level among the local Christian Education organizations, churches related to the United Church of Christ, and those related to the National Christian Council, the National Christian Council itself has now been asked to take full responsibility for the World Sunday School Convention next year which to this point has been borne entirely by the Church School Department of the NCC. Mr. Yasumura, Spokesman for the Preparation Committee said, "As the Convention is less than a year away, it was considered necessary to set up a new organization so that the delegates to the World Convention may be received by the entire body of churches in Japan rather than by a Sunday School group within the Church, and in order that all departments of the NCC may function in the preparations for this World Convention". The world gathering will get under way a year hence when the preliminary "Institute" meets from July 21 - Aug. 1, followed by the World Convention Central Committee meeting on Aug. 4 and 5, then the World Convention itself from Aug. 6-13, and finally, local area conferences from Aug. 15-20.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF CENTENNIAL TO INCLUDE DR. CLARKE'S WORKS

The Literature Commission of the National Christian Council is preparing a bilingual book, "100 Years' History of Christianity in Japan", profusely illustrated with pictures, which will include writings of Dr. William S. Clarke, famous for his work in the late 1800's in Hokkaido, in northern Japan. Mr. Michio Takaya, Prof. at Meiji Gakuin in Tokyo is the Editor, who says, "Dr. Clarke's literature, mainly letters, will provide valuable information concerning the establishment of the Sapporo Agricultural College and the relationship between the Hokkaido pioneers of that day and the Government of the United States."

INDIA'S CHRISTIANS

According to Dr. J. R. Chandran of Indian Bangalore Theological Seminary, a recent visitor to Japan, there are only 9,000,000 Christians among a population of 350,000,000 (3%), but Christianity has had a great influence there, nevertheless. He added that Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the Vice-Premier, advocates the idea that religion is religion, whatever its name, and all are about the same, so the policy of India today is to encourage all religions. He questioned whether this could be welcomed whole-heartedly by Christians. He also said that only 17% of India's population can read and write.

INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS UNDER WAY

Two international work camps (announced in June 15th issue) are now in progress since July 16 in Nagao Village in Gumma Pref., (Komochiyama Orphanage) and in Arao City, Kumamoto (Zion Day Nursery). 32 young people comprise the former camp, 16 Japanese, 14 Americans, 1 from Hong Kong and 1 from Okinawa. Of the 14 Americans 8 are college students using their school vacations for this purpose; the other Americans are Missionaries or Armed Forces personnel in Japan. The group at Arao has 29 in it, of which 4 are American, the others coming from Formosa, Hong Kong or Japan. Of interest in regard to the latter group, is the fact that an engineer from Arao City's engineering department is working with this Christian project. Their day begins with a morning devotional hour. After a hard day in this summer sun, they gather together with the youth of the town and carry on discussion groups, study sessions, or recreational programs. Both work camps are sponsored by the NCC. Another work camp under the auspices of the Youth Commission of the United Church will get under way at Morioka in late July, at a Sanitarium for T.B. children, (built with money raised through the New Year's Greeting Card Benefit Fund). 9 Methodist college youth, now sightseeing in Japan, will be joined by 12 Japanese college youth at the campsite, for the two weeks long work project at Morioka. This is the first time for a work camp sponsored by the United Church.

CHRISTIAN CENTURY WORLD SEMINAR PARTY IN JAPAN

Composed of 35 Christian doctors, professors, and others who "travel with a serious purpose", the globe-circling Seminar to study the Christian world mission, sponsored by the Christian Century, was in Japan a week from July 26-Aug. 1. Leaving the States July 23, Japan was the first stop in this journey around the globe which will make possible the meeting of significant political leaders, outstanding Christians, and representatives of all the world's other major religions in 16 countries. The members of the Seminar "work together in a carefully planned effort to do what can be done in such a seminar to see the world and to understand its major problems." The Japan itinerary included orientation talks by missionaries, visits to Buddhist Temples, an address by Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, a visit to the Diet, a visit to the Embassy, ICU, International House and various side excursions to famous tourist spots in Japan.

CHRISTIAN GIRL SCOUT REPRESENTS JAPAN ABROAD

Miss Tomiko Tanaka, 18, member of the Reinanazaka Church Troop in Tokyo, was one of 4 girls chosen to represent Japan's 7000 Girl Scouts at the International Jamboree this summer in Canada and the USA. Her Troop leader, Miss Kikuko Usui, said, "this is the second time our Troop has sent a delegate to a Girl Scout Jamboree abroad. Our's is the only Troop in a Japanese Christian Church. I regret that we have not secured the cooperation of the Christian churches in this movement in order to exert a stronger Christian influence through the Scout Movement in Japan."

JAPAN CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CONTINUES WHITE RUSSIAN REFUGEE PROJECT

Through the kindness and help of the Japanese Government 31 stateless white Russians, (9 men - 20 women - 2 children, escapees from Communist China) have been admitted to Japan and are receiving food, clothing, and temporary housing through the efforts of Japan Church World Service. The latter acts as one of the agencies of the World Council of Church's Refugee Service. Housing is provided in a hotel in Yokohama leased by JCWS, and as this is going to print, 7 more are arriving, necessitating the lease of a second hotel in the immediate future. Financial support is coming from American sponsors and from churches around the world who are helping in this world wide project. JCWS is helping these people to relocate in America or any other country that will open her doors. Hong Kong is too crowded to permit them to stay there. Japan is thus helping to solve a critical problem for some desperate people.

PASTOR IN TIME OF GREAT SORROW HELPED JAPAN - NOW VISITING HERE

In the summer of 1947 the Rev. Wayne Leighty, then Pastor of a Methodist Church in Illinois was attending one of the famous "Camps Farthest Out" under the leadership of Dr. Glenn Clarke when the tragic news came that his 5-year old son "Chuck" had drowned in a lake near Minneapolis. During this spiritual crisis in his life, he and his wife were particularly helped by the famous Dr. Frank Laubach and Dr. Clarke himself, who recalled that just at that particular time Dr. Kagawa was pleading for goats from America to relieve the immediate post-war shortage of milk and meat in Japan. The little boy's prayer one day before his tragic death, "Dear God, take care of all the people in the world for Jesus' sake, Amen", had reached the pages of national newspapers in America through one of his Daddy's sermons, and expressions of sympathy, many of them money, came in from all over the United States when news of the death of the little boy who prayed this prayer was published. Inspired by the little boy's prayer all these memorial gifts were given by the family to purchase goats in answer to Kagawa's appeal and immediately sent to Japan. Ten years later, from July 21-25, 1957, the Rev. Leighty was able to visit Japan, spoke with Rev. Hal Shorrock of JCWS, who had written Rev. Leighty a long letter of thanks and sympathy back in 1947, which Rev. Leighty recalls, meant so much to him and his family in that time of sorrow, and who took Rev. Leighty out to the Nakazato Orphanage to see some of the offsprings of the goat they had sent to Japan.

Art thou lonely, O my brother?
Share thy bounty with another
In the act of one befriended
There thy loneliness is ended!

Latest word from the Rev. Galen Russell, formerly Pastor of Tokyo Union Church, found the family in Jerusalem on their "round the world" journey home.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, well-known Pastor of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, and author of many books, is spending several weeks in Japan observing Christian work here in the Far East. He will speak at Tokyo Union English Speaking Church on Aug. 11.

Three Methodist Bishops, Bishop Gerald Kennedy, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, and Bishop Donald Tippet are coming to Japan under the auspices of the Army Chaplain Corps for a Chaplains' Retreat at Oiso below Yokohama Nov. 5, 6 and 7.

Dr. Daniel Poling, well-known Pastor of the United States and Editor of the Christian Herald, is due in Japan from Sept. 9-13, on his annual visit to members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan and Korea and elsewhere in the Far East.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Vining, American private teacher to the Crown Prince of Japan for 4 years immediately following the war, is coming back to Japan from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15, to attend a meeting of the International Pen Club to be held at International Christian University in Tokyo. Mrs. Vining will be remembered by many as the author of the book, "Windows For The Crown Prince" published in 1952.

Japan Church World Service, along with the American Friends Service Committee, and Catholic Relief Services wrote a glowing chapter in the history of cooperative Christian help over the weekend to the needy in time of tragedy - this time to the victims of the ravaging floods in Kyushu. Friday the floods tore Kyushu apart, and by early Saturday morning, with a plane free of charge from Japan Air Lines, 5 tons of butter, milk, clothing, bedding and medicines, all gifts from American Christians, were on their way. By Saturday afternoon, with help on the scene from Japan's Self Defense Forces and the United States Air Force, these emergency supplies, in many cases, the first help to arrive, were being distributed. The Rev. Ken Buma, representative of JCWS flew with these first supplies, and remained on the scene throughout to assist with distribution. The following day (with no let-up in sight) the Rev. Hal Shorrock flew with 23,000 pounds of emergency supplies, with a plane donated free by Northwest Airlines, to Kyushu, accompanied by Mr. Burke Carmody of Catholic Relief Services, and these men have remained on the scene throughout to extend all possible help. The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishi, flew to the scene Sunday afternoon to personally direct the relief activities, the first time a Prime Minister has done such a thing. Conservative death total (July 30) is 609 with another 391 still missing. Again the Christian hand of help and mercy in the name of Christ was there quick, and with goods so badly needed.

